

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-11, 13-21, 23-31 and 33-36 were pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended, new claims 39-43 have been added, and no claims have been canceled herein. Therefore, claims 1-11, 13-21, 23-31, 33-36 and 39-43 are now pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application for at least the reasons presented below.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejection

The final Office Action previously rejected claims 1-11, 13-21, 23-31 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being "directed to non-statutory subject matter." More specifically, the Office Action cites the *Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility* (hereinafter "Guidelines") and argues that claim 1, upon which claims 2-11, 13, and 34-36 depend, and claim 14, upon which claims 15-21 and 23 depend, do not provide a practical application, i.e., that they do not provide a "useful, concrete, and tangible result." The Advisory Action continued to assert that these claims are directed to non-statutory subject matter by not being limited to "a machine or manufacture."

The applicants respectfully continue to maintain that, for at least the reasons argued previously, the claims are in fact directed to statutory subject matter and that the rejection is improper. However, for the sake of expediency in moving the claims toward allowance, an amendment has been made to claim 1 that is thought to provide additional reasons for withdrawal of the rejection. Namely, claim 1 has been amended to be directed to "a computer-implemented method," thus, it is submitted, limiting the claim to "a machine or manufacture," i.e., the computer. For at least this additional reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-11, 13, and 34-36 are thought to overcome the reasons for rejection. Therefore, the applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Regarding claim 14 and its dependent claims, the undersign respectfully requests further clarification of this rejection. Specifically, the undersigned, with all due respect, cannot understand how "one or more processor readable storage devices" are considered to not be an article of manufacture and thus allowable subject matter.

The applicants submit that claim 14, reciting in part "one or more processor readable storage devices," is clearly directed to an article of manufacture. As noted in the Guidelines:

"A manufacture is 'the production of articles for use from raw or prepared materials by giving to these materials new forms, qualities, properties or combinations, whether by hand labor or by machinery.' Chakrabarty, 447 U.S. at 308, 206 USPQ at 196-97 (quoting American Fruit Growers, Inc. v. Brogdex Co., 283 U.S. 1, 11 (1931))."

The one or more processor readable storage devices of claim 14 have "processor readable code embodied" thereon. That is, the devices comprise articles produced for use from raw or prepared materials by giving to these materials new forms, qualities, properties or combinations. Furthermore, as an article of manufacture, claim 14 and its dependent claims fall squarely within the realm of subject matter explicitly and clearly defined by the Guidelines, a long and thorough history of case law, and, not least of all, 35 U.S.C. §101. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection, Du in view of SiteMinder

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-11, 13-21, 23-31 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,041,306, issued March 21, 2000, to Du et al. (hereinafter "Du") in view of Netegrity, Inc., "SiteMinder Policy Server Operations Guide", Version 4.0, published 1997 (hereinafter "SiteMinder"). The Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness in

rejecting these claims. Therefore, the Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Office Action must establish: 1) some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or combine their teachings; 2) a reasonable expectation of success of such a modification or combination; and 3) a teaching or suggestion in the cited prior art of each claimed limitation. See MPEP § 706.02(j). However, as will be discussed below, the references cited by the Office Action do not teach or suggest each claimed limitation. For example, neither reference, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests associating workflows with one or more groups in an identity system, receiving a request to perform a task that pertains to at least one identity profile of an entity in said identity system, and performing a first workflow for the task, the first workflow associated with a first group that includes a target identity profile of the request wherein the first workflow comprises a predefined set of steps that perform the task to affect the target identity profile.

Du is directed to "a system and method for performing flexible workflow process execution in a distributed workflow management system." (Col. 2, lines 59-61) Under Du "the distributed workflow management system is formed by a computer network comprising a plurality of computers." (Col. 3, lines 1-3) "A workflow process management system operates on one or more of the computers to control the computer network in executing the workflow process." (Col. 3, lines 4-7) "Each workflow process includes a sequence of activities, each of which is ordinarily performed by one of the computer systems." (Col. 4, lines 34-36) "The WFPM system provides procedural automation of the workflow process by managing the sequence of process activities and the invocation of appropriate user, machine or microprocessor-controlled device resources associated with the various activity steps." (Col. 4, lines 51-56) That is, Du teaches controlling distribution of processing of tasks between a number of computers in a network. However, Du does not teach or suggest performing a first workflow

for a task, the first workflow associated with a first group that includes a target identity profile of the request wherein the first workflow comprises a predefined set of steps that perform the task to affect the target identity profile.

The cited portions of SiteMinder relate to policies and policy domains (p.235-237 and 325-328) and responding to requests for resources (p. 301-304). Under SiteMinder, policies, which may be grouped together into policy domains, control a user's access to resources. Resource within a policy domain, i.e., resource to which a policy domain applies, can be further grouped into realms. Access to the resource is controlled by rules defined for the realm that contains the requested resource. (See pages 235 and 325) However, the cited portions of SiteMinder do not teach or suggest performing a first workflow for a task, the first workflow associated with a first group that includes a target identity profile of the request wherein the first workflow comprises a predefined set of steps that perform the task to affect the target identity profile. In fact, the groups, i.e., the policy domains, of SiteMinder to which the policies apply are groups of resources, not groups of users. Thus, SiteMinder does not teach or suggest associating workflows with one or more groups in an identity system, each group including one or more users. Furthermore, SiteMinder does not teach or suggest performing a first workflow associated with a first group that includes a target identity profile of the request. Rather, SiteMinder selects policies based on the group of the requested resource.

The combination of references are no more relevant to the pending claims than either reference alone since neither Du nor the cited portions of SiteMinder teach or suggest, alone or in combination, performing a first workflow for a task, the first workflow associated with a first group that includes a target identity profile of the request wherein the first workflow comprises a predefined set of steps that perform the task to affect the target identity profile. That is, neither Du nor the cited portions of SiteMinder teach or suggest, alone or in combination, affecting a target identity profile by performing a workflow associated with a group that contains the target identity profile. Rather Du teaches controlling distribution of processing of tasks

between a number of computers in a network while the cited portions of SiteMinder teach controlling user access of resources based on policies applied to groups of resources.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-11, 13, and 34-36 depend, claim 14, upon which claims 15-21 and 23 depend, and claim 24, upon which claims 25-31 and 33 depend, each recite in part "associating workflows with one or more groups in an identity system, each group including one or more users of the identity system; receiving a request to perform a task that pertains to at least one identity profile of an entity in said identity system; and performing a first workflow for said task, said first workflow is associated with a first group that includes a target identity profile of said request; wherein: said first workflow comprises a predefined set of steps that perform said task to affect the target identity profile, said predefined set of steps comprising a first step and a second step." Neither Du nor the cited portions of SiteMinder teach or suggest, alone or in combination, affecting a target identity profile by performing a workflow associated with a group that contains the target identity profile. Rather Du teaches controlling distribution of processing of tasks between a number of computers in a network while the cited portions of SiteMinder teach controlling user access of resources based on policies applied to groups of resources. For at least these reasons, claims 1-11, 13-21, 23-31, and 33-36 should be allowed.

New claim 39, upon which new claims 40-43 depend, recites in part "associating workflows with one or more groups in an identity system, each group including one or more users of the identity system and each user of the identity system having an associated identity profile." As noted above, neither Du nor the cited portions of SiteMinder teach or suggest associating workflows with groups of users. Rather, the groups of SiteMinder to which policies apply are groups of resources, not users. Claim 39 further recites "receiving a request to perform a task that pertains to a target identity profile in the identity system." Neither Du nor the cited portions of SiteMinder teach or suggest, alone or in combination, performing a task that pertains to a target identity profile. Claim 39 also recites "identifying a set of one or more workflows that perform the task and are associated with groups that include the user associated with the target identity profile." Again, neither Du nor the cited portions of SiteMinder teach or suggest

identifying workflows that are associated with groups that include the target identity profile. Rather, the policies of SiteMinder are applied based on the requested resource, not a group to which the user associated with the target identity profile is associated. Furthermore, claim 39 recites "reporting the set of one or more workflows; receiving a user selection of a first workflow from the set of one or more workflows; and performing one or more steps of said first workflow to affect the target identity profile." Neither Du nor the cited portions of SiteMinder teach or suggest, alone or in combination, allowing a user to select from among possible workflows. For at least these reasons, new claims 39-43 are also thought to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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